

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CLINICAL OPERATIONS

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF DMH PRACTICE PARAMETERS

MARCH 2019

- I. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LAC DMH) parameters identify critical factors to be considered in the provision of care for individuals served in LAC DMH, but are not comprehensive treatment guidelines.
- II. An in-depth knowledge of the clinical and practitioner skills essential for the provision of quality services should result from ongoing training and regular review of relevant literature.
- III. These parameters represent the consensus among DMH practitioners, clinicians and other experts within each specific scope of practice.
- IV. These parameters apply regardless of the funding source for the treatment.
- V. These parameters in no way substitute for the dialogue, self-direction, and respect for clients that is at the core of sound mental health recovery practice.
- VI. These parameters are not absolute, but practice outside of such parameters requires special justification, documentation and consultation.
- VII. These parameters are designed to encourage consultation, monitoring, and supervision directly at each clinical site rather than at more remote and removed administrative locations, under scrutiny or authority such as an audit.
- VIII. These parameters continue to evolve and must be supplemented by continuous education and training.
- IX. The specialized technical and interpersonal skills required by these parameters mandate specific education and supervision for all practitioners.
- X. Changes in current individual treatment regimens made for the purpose of conformity with these parameters should be initiated only after careful consideration of the original reasons for the current treatment, and collaboration with other providers for that client.
- XI. These parameters reflect current interpretations of best practices, and may change as new information and interventions become available.
- XII. Special efforts must be undertaken to respect the unique values, spiritual beliefs, lifestyles, cultural and personal experiences, and autonomy of clients that are at the core of quality mental health care.